

REMARKS

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner allowed claim 9, objected to claims 2, 4, and 5, and rejected claims 1, 3, 6-8, and 13-24. The Examiner also indicated that the specific structure recited in claims 2, 4, 5, and 9 defines over the art of record. By this paper, the Applicants hereby amend claims 1, 5, 7, 13, and 21, cancel claim 4, and add new claims 25-34 to place the present application in condition for allowance. Specifically, the Applicants hereby amend independent claim 1 to incorporate allowable dependent claim 4, and add new independent claim 25 based on independent claim 1 and allowable dependent claim 2. In addition, the Applicants hereby amend independent claim 7 to recite subject matter similar to allowable dependent claims 4 and 5. The Applicants also amend independent claim 13 to recite subject matter similar to allowable dependent claim 5. Finally, the Applicants hereby amend independent claim 21 to recite subject matter similar to allowable dependent claim 2. In view of these amendments and the Examiner's remarks in the Advisory Action, the Applicants respectfully stress that all claims are currently in condition for allowance.

Interview Summary

On July 6, 2006, the Applicants' attorney, Tait R. Swanson (Reg. No. 48, 226), contacted the Examiner to discuss the Advisory Action and the allowable subject matter. On July 7, 2006, the Applicants' attorney and the Examiner discussed possible amendments to the claims. Although no agreement was reached, the Examiner indicated that amendments to independent claims 1, 7, 13, and 21 based on the allowable subject matter of claims 2, 4, 5, and 9 would most likely place all of those claims 1, 7, 13, and 21 in condition for allowance. The Examiner also suggested rewriting some of the allowable dependent claims into independent form.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In view of the Advisory Action and the Final Office Action, claims 13 and 16-21 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Strickland, Jr. (U.S.

Patent No. 2,457,843) in view of Miller (U.S. Patent No. 3,022,368) and Moesta (U.S. Patent No. 1,548,204). Claims 1, 3, 14 and 22-24 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious based on Strickland, Jr. in view of Miller and Moesta, as applied to claims 13 and 16-21 above, and further in view of Haldeman (U.S. Patent No. 5,461,215). Claims 6, 7, 8 and 15 remain rejected in view of the foregoing references and further references under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Independent claim 1

Amended independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “each electrical connector is adapted to lockingly engage an electrical connector on an extension cable that is electrically coupleable to a power source.” As noted above, the foregoing features are hereby incorporated into claim 1 from the allowable claim 4. For at least this reason, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the foregoing rejection of independent claim 1 and its dependent claims. The cited references, taken alone or in hypothetical combination with one another, fail to teach or suggest the foregoing feature of claim 1.

Independent claim 7

Amended independent claim 7 recites, *inter alia*, “the first electrical connector being adapted for locking engagement with a second electrical connector on an extension cable that is electrically coupleable to the power source” and “the first quick-disconnect fluid connector is adapted to be fluidically coupled to a jumper hose that is fluidically coupleable to the extension cable.” As noted above, the foregoing features are hereby incorporated into claim 7 based on the allowable claims 4 and 5. For at least this reason, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the foregoing rejection of independent claim 7 and its dependent claims. The cited references, taken alone or in hypothetical combination with one another, fail to teach or suggest the foregoing features of claim 7.

Independent claim 13

Amended independent claim 13 recites, *inter alia*, “the first fluid connector is adapted to be fluidically coupled to a jumper hose that is fluidically coupleable to an extension cable.” As noted above, the foregoing features are hereby incorporated into claim 13 based on the allowable claim 5. For at least this reason, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the foregoing rejection of independent claim 13 and its dependent claims. The cited references, taken alone or in hypothetical combination with one another, fail to teach or suggest the foregoing features of claim 13.

Independent claim 21

Amended independent claim 21 recites, *inter alia*, “the electrical connector comprises a first plurality of electrical conductors adapted to engage a second plurality of electrical conductors in the electrical connector at an area of contact, further wherein the first and second plurality of electrical conductors are adapted to minimize electrical resistance at the area of contact due to skin effect.” As noted above, the foregoing features are hereby incorporated into claim 21 based on the allowable claim 2. For at least this reason, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the foregoing rejection of independent claim 21 and its dependent claims. The cited references, taken alone or in hypothetical combination with one another, fail to teach or suggest the foregoing features of claim 21.

New Claims

As noted above, the Applicants hereby add new claims 25-34. Independent claim 25 is based on independent claim 1 and allowable dependent claim 2. Therefore, the Applicants stress that claims 25-28 are currently in condition for allowance. New claims 29-34 depend from independent claim 9, which the Examiner indicated as allowed in the Advisory Action. Therefore, the Applicants stress that claims 29-34 are also in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

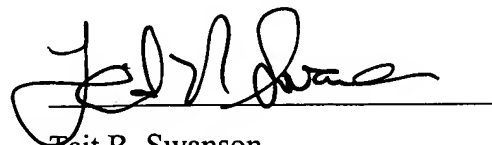
In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Authorization for Extensions of Time and Payment of Fees

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, Applicants hereby provide a general authorization to treat this and any future reply requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request thereof. The Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fee of \$1,210.00 for this request for continued examination (RCE), a one-month extension of time from July 6, 2006, to August 6, 2006, and six additional claims, and any additional fees which may be required, to the credit card listed on the attached PTO-2038. However, if the PTO-2038 is missing, if the amount listed thereon is insufficient, or if the amount is unable to be charged to the credit card for any other reason, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 06-1315; Order No. ITWO:0022-1/SWA (12364.01).

Respectfully submitted,

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